

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for a recipient to receive an email having rights management (RM) protected content therein, the protected content being encrypted and decryptable according to a content key (KID), the content key (KID) being found in a corresponding license, the method comprising:

receiving the email while connectively coupled to a network through which the email may be obtained;

recognizing that the received email has the protected content therein; and

obtaining the license for the protected content of the email from an RM server while still connectively coupled to the network and in response to receiving the email and recognizing the protected content therein, such obtaining being performed in an automatic manner, wherein obtaining the license comprises:

placing a representation of the received email with the protected content therein into a queue;

retrieving the representation of the received email from the queue;

requesting the license for the protected content of the retrieved email from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on a bad server list; and

noting the RM server in a bad server list if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license,

whereby said recognizing and obtaining are performed in a manner transparent to a recipient of the email, and whereby the license is available to the recipient even when such recipient is not connectively coupled to the RM server by way of the network at a later time.

2-4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 further comprising, if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license:

placing the representation of the email back into the queue;

again requesting such license for the protected content of the retrieved email from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on the bad server list.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 further comprising removing the noted RM server from the bad server list after a period of time.

7. (currently amended) A method for a recipient to receive rights management (RM) protected content, the protected content being encrypted and decryptable according to a content key (KID), the content key (KID) being found in a corresponding license, the method comprising:

receiving the protected content while connectively coupled to a network through which the protected content may be obtained;

recognizing that the received protected content is in fact protected content; and

obtaining the license for the protected content from an RM server while still connectively coupled to the network and in response to receiving the protected content and recognizing the protected content as protected content, such obtaining being performed in an automatic manner, wherein obtaining the license comprises:

placing a representation of the received protected content into a queue;

retrieving the representation of the received protected content from the queue;

requesting the license for the protected content from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on a bad server list; and

noting the RM server in a bad server list if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license,

whereby said recognizing and obtaining are performed in a manner transparent to a recipient of the email, and whereby the license is available to the recipient even when such recipient is not connectively coupled to the RM server by way of the network at a later time.

8-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method of claim [[10]] 7 further comprising, if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license:

placing the representation of the protected content back into the queue;
again requesting such license for the protected content from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on the bad server list.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim [[10]] 7 further comprising removing the noted RM server from the bad server list after a period of time.

13. (currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a recipient to receive an email having rights management (RM) protected content therein, the protected content being encrypted and decryptable according to a content key (KID), the content key (KID) being found in a corresponding license, the method comprising:

receiving the email while connectively coupled to a network through which the email may be obtained;

recognizing that the received email has the protected content therein; and

obtaining the license for the protected content of the email from an RM server while still connectively coupled to the network and in response to receiving the email and recognizing the protected content therein, such obtaining being performed in an automatic manner, wherein obtaining the license comprises:

placing a representation of the received email with the protected content therein into a queue;

retrieving the representation of the received email from the queue;

requesting the license for the protected content of the retrieved email from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on a bad server list; and

noting the RM server in a bad server list if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license,

whereby said recognizing and obtaining are performed in a manner transparent to a recipient of the email, and whereby the license is available to the recipient even when

such recipient is not connectively coupled to the RM server by way of the network at a later time.

14-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The medium of claim [[16]] 13 wherein the method further comprises, if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license:

placing the representation of the email back into the queue;

again requesting such license for the protected content of the retrieved email from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on the bad server list.

18. (currently amended) The medium of claim [[16]] 13 wherein the method further comprises removing the noted RM server from the bad server list after a period of time.

19. (currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a recipient to receive rights management (RM) protected content, the protected content being encrypted and decryptable according to a content key (KID), the content key (KID) being found in a corresponding license, the method comprising:

receiving the protected content while connectively coupled to a network through which the protected content may be obtained;

recognizing that the received protected content is in fact protected content; and

obtaining the license for the protected content from an RM server while still connectively coupled to the network and in response to receiving the protected content and recognizing the protected content as protected content, such obtaining being performed in an automatic manner, wherein obtaining the license comprises:

placing a representation of the received protected content into a queue;

retrieving the representation of the received protected content from the queue;

requesting the license for the protected content from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on a bad server list; and

noting the RM server in a bad server list if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license,

whereby said recognizing and obtaining are performed in a manner transparent to a recipient of the email, and whereby the license is available to the recipient even when such recipient is not connectively coupled to the RM server by way of the network at a later time.

20-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The medium of claim [[22]] 19 wherein the method further comprises, if the RM server fails to respond to the request for the license:

placing the representation of the protected content back into the queue;

again requesting such license for the protected content from the RM server if the RM server is not noted on the bad server list.

24. (currently amended) The medium of claim [[22]] 19 wherein the method further comprises removing the noted RM server from the bad server list after a period of time.